

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Baseline

Name of Program and Service: Outside In-Voyagers-Competency Development Group
Cohort Total: 50 SPEP ID: 87-T01
Selected Timeframe: Jul. 21, 2014-Dec. 24, 2015
Date(s) of Interview(s): Jun. 3, 2015 & Sep. 11, 2015
Lead County & SPEP Team Representatives: Doug Braden, Allegheny Co. & Shawn Peck, EPISCenter
Person Preparing Report: Shawn Peck & Doug Braden

Description of Service: *This should include a **brief** overview of the service within the context of the program, the location and if community based or residential. Indicate the type of youth referred, how the service is delivered, the purpose of service and any other **relevant** information to help the reader understand the SPEP service type classification. (350 character limit)*

The Voyagers Program is an activity-intensive 24-bed, male only, residential program focusing primarily on pro-social adolescent development and skill building. The Voyagers Program utilizes a cognitive behavioral approach which challenges each student's thinking and behavior patterns in three specific adolescent developmental areas: pro social skills, moral reasoning and education. The Voyagers Program incorporates a group approach with experience-based learning. The group approach emphasizes pro-social skill building and the experience-based learning provides real-world engagement. Specific activities foster interaction and interdependence between group members while simultaneously developing problem solving ability and personal responsibility. The dynamics of trust, teamwork, stewardship, integrity, communication, service and respect are emphasized. The average length of stay is 4 to 6 months, but can vary from a month to a year or longer. Each student has the opportunity to participate in community service and venturing activities. The Voyagers Program consists of a highly structured and activity-intensive milieu that is developmentally appropriate and intrinsically motivating, challenging each student to evaluate his past behaviors and decisions and to begin imagining new ways of being. While in the Voyagers Program, students have the opportunity to participate in the Wilderness Intensive Leadership Development (W.I.L.D.) Program. W.I.L.D. is a closed group of no more than eight students that participate in outdoor intensive programming and venturing activities. Each student participates in the status and level system which measures behavioral progress and also is used to determine activities that the youth can participate in while in the program.

As part of the focus on pro-social adolescent development and skill building, all youth committed to Outside In receive weekly group counseling sessions, three times a week, for one hour each session. This component is known as the Competency Development Group. Topics include: Self Development, Value Clarification, Anger Management, Group Dynamics, Peer Pressure, Communication, Conflict Resolution, Personal Health, and Education. Students are evaluated weekly through ten behavioral categories: Class Session Participation, Cooperation, Responsibility, Attitude Toward Authority, Socialization with Peers, Positive Mental Attitude, Initiative, Courtesy and Manners, Personal Moral Integrity, and Behavioral Contract. These categories form the backbone of Outside In interventions providing the students with immediate feedback on appropriate decision making, behavior expectations and education.

The four characteristics of a service found to be the most strongly related to reducing recidivism:

1. **SPEP™ Service Type:** Group Counseling

Based on the meta-analysis, is there a qualifying supplemental service? No

If so, what is the Service type? There is no qualifying supplemental service

Was the supplemental service provided? n/a Total Points Possible for this Service Type: 30

Total Points Earned: 30 Total Points Possible: 35

2. **Quality of Service:** Research has shown that programs that deliver service with high quality are more likely to have a positive impact on recidivism reduction. Monitoring of quality is defined by existence of written protocol, staff training and supervision, and how drift from service delivery is addressed.

Total Points Earned: 10 Total Points Possible: 20

3. **Amount of Service:** Score was derived from examination of weeks and hours each youth in the cohort received the service. The amount of service is measured by the target amounts of service for the SPEP service categorization. Each SPEP service type has varying amounts of duration and dosage. Youth should receive the targeted amounts to have the greatest impact on recidivism reduction.

Points received for Duration or Number of Weeks: 0

Points received for Dosage or Number of Hours: 4

Total Points Earned: 4 Total Points Possible: 20

4. **Youth Risk Level:** The risk level score is compiled by calculating the total % of youth that score above low risk, and the total % of youth who score above moderate risk to reoffend based on the results of the YLS.

49/50 youth in the cohort are Moderate, High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 12 points

11/50 youth in the cohort are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 5 points

Total Points Earned: 17 Total Points Possible: 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 61 total points awarded out of 100 points. Compares service to any other type of SPEP therapeutic service. (eg: individual counseling compared to cognitive behavioral therapy, social skills training, mentoring, etc.)

Note: Services with scores greater than or equal to 50 show the service is having a positive impact on recidivism reduction.

Program Optimization Percentage: 65% This percentage compares the service to the same service types found in the research. (eg: individual counseling compared to all other individual counseling services included in the research)

The SPEP and Performance Improvement

The intended use of the SPEP is to optimize the effectiveness of reducing recidivism among juvenile offenders. Recommendations for performance improvement are included in the service feedback report, and these recommendations are the focus of the performance improvement plan, a shared responsibility of the service provider and the local juvenile court. The recommendations for this service included in the feedback report are:

Outside In's service of Competency Development Group scored a 65% Program Optimization Percentage. It is classified as a Group 4 service; Group Counseling with no qualifying supplemental service. The quality of the service was found to be at a Medium level. The risk levels of youth admitted to the program were 1% as low risk, 76% as moderate risk and 22% as high risk. The amount of service provided to the clients was 42% of the recommended targeted weeks of duration and 42% of the recommended target contact hours for this service type.

Outside In's service of Competency Development Group could improve its capacity for recidivism reduction through:

1. Regarding Quality of Service:
 - a. Develop a training that is specific to the delivery this service
 - b. Develop a booster training that is specific to the delivery this service
 - c. Ensure that the supervisor of this service is trained to deliver the service
 - d. Develop an agency policy that outlines how to prevent drift from delivering the service according to the protocol
 - i. Ensure that the organizational response to drift included specific action steps for the agency to take, an "if-then" approach, should drift occur
 - ii. A progressive supervision process and response plan
 - iii. Reference the use of data outcomes to improve service delivery
2. Regarding Service Amount:
 - a. Improve communication with JPO from referring counties to better match research recommendations for targeted amount of service

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Reassessment

Name of Program and Service: Outside In-Voyagers Program-Competency Development Group

Cohort Total: 17

SPEP ID: 87-T02

Selected Timeframe: May 23, 2017-Mar.19, 2018

Date(s) of Interview(s): Jul.17, 2017 & Sep.18, 2017

Lead County & SPEP Team Representatives: Bill Shultz, Allegheny Co. & Shawn Peck, EPISCenter

Person Preparing Report: Melanie King & Shawn Peck

Description of Service: *This should include a **brief** overview of the service within the context of the program, the location and if community based or residential. Indicate the type of youth referred, how the service is delivered, the purpose of service and any other **relevant** information to help the reader understand the SPEP service type classification. (350 character limit)*

Outside In is a non-profit corporation based in Bolivar, Pennsylvania, Westmoreland County that provides services for youth and families. Outside In offers a continuum of care that includes both residential and nonresidential services with the goal to interrupt non-productive behavior patterns and establish success and positive development in referred youth. Upon entering Outside In, students are placed in one of two residential programs on the campus. The two programs offered at Outside In are Pathway to Recovery and Voyagers. The Pathway to Recovery Program provides specific drug and alcohol treatment (inpatient). The Voyagers Program is an activity-intensive 36-bed, male only, residential program focusing primarily on pro-social adolescent development and skill building. The Voyagers Program utilizes a cognitive behavioral approach which challenges each student's thinking and behavior patterns in three specific adolescent developmental areas: pro-social skills, moral reasoning, and education. The Voyagers Program incorporates a group approach with experience-based learning. The group approach emphasizes pro-social skill building and the experience-based learning provides real-world engagement. Specific activities foster interaction and interdependence between group members while simultaneously developing problem solving ability and personal responsibility. The dynamics of trust, teamwork, stewardship, integrity, communication, service and respect are emphasized. The average length of stay is four to six months, but can vary from a month to a year or longer. Each student has the opportunity to participate in community service and venturing activities. Students are evaluated weekly through ten behavioral categories: Class Session Participation, Cooperation, Responsibility, Attitude toward Authority, Socialization with Peers, Positive Mental Attitude, Initiative, Courtesy and Manners, Personal Moral Integrity, and Behavioral Contract. These categories form the backbone of Outside In interventions providing the students with immediate feedback on appropriate decision making, behavior expectations and education. As part of the focus on pro-social adolescent development and skill building, all youth committed to the Outside In Voyagers Program receive weekly group counseling sessions, three times a week, for one hour each session. This component is known as the Competency Development Group. Topics are from the following five of the ten behavioral categories: 1. Attitude toward Authority, 2. Socialization with Peers, 3. Positive Mental Attitude, 4. Initiative, and 5. Personal Moral Integrity. The group's needs can drive topic selection. Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy and Advancing Competency Development: A White Paper for Pennsylvania influenced this locally-developed curriculum.

The four characteristics of a service found to be the most strongly related to reducing recidivism:

1. **SPEP™ Service Type:** Group Counseling

Based on the meta-analysis, is there a qualifying supplemental service? No

If so, what is the Service type? There is no qualifying supplemental service

Was the supplemental service provided? n/a Total Points Possible for this Service Type: 30

Total Points Earned: 30 Total Points Possible: 35

2. **Quality of Service:** Research has shown that programs that deliver service with high quality are more likely to have a positive impact on recidivism reduction. Monitoring of quality is defined by existence of written protocol, staff training and supervision, and how drift from service delivery is addressed.

Total Points Earned: 20 Total Points Possible: 20

3. **Amount of Service:** Score was derived from examination of weeks and hours each youth in the cohort received the service. The amount of service is measured by the target amounts of service for the SPEP service categorization. Each SPEP service type has varying amounts of duration and dosage. Youth should receive the targeted amounts to have the greatest impact on recidivism reduction.

Points received for Duration or Number of Weeks: 2

Points received for Dosage or Number of Hours: 8

Total Points Earned: 10 Total Points Possible: 20

4. **Youth Risk Level:** The risk level score is compiled by calculating the total % of youth that score above low risk, and the total % of youth who score above moderate risk to reoffend based on the results of the YLS.

13 youth in the cohort are Moderate, High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 7 points

3 youth in the cohort are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 3 points

Total Points Earned: 10 Total Points Possible: 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 70 total points awarded out of 100 points. Compares service to any other type of SPEP therapeutic service. (eg: individual counseling compared to cognitive behavioral therapy, social skills training, mentoring, etc.)

Note: Services with scores greater than or equal to 50 show the service is having a positive impact on recidivism reduction.

Program Optimization Percentage: 74% This percentage compares the service to the same service types found in the research. (eg: individual counseling compared to all other individual counseling services included in the research)

The SPEP and [Performance Improvement](#)

The intended use of the SPEP is to optimize the effectiveness of reducing recidivism among juvenile offenders. Recommendations for performance improvement are included in the service feedback report, and these recommendations are the focus of the performance improvement plan, a shared responsibility of the service provider and the local juvenile court. The recommendations for this service included in the feedback report are:

Competency Development Group scored a 70 for the Basic Score and a 74% Program Optimization Percentage (POP). The Basic Score represents an increase of 9 points and the POP represents an increase of 10 percentage points from the initial SPEP™ assessment. It was classified as a Group 4 service; Group Counseling. The quality of service delivery was found to be at a high level. For amount of service, 24% of the youth received the recommended targeted weeks of duration and 82% of the youth received the recommended targeted contact hours for this service type. The risk levels of youth admitted to the program were 24% as low risk, 59% as moderate risk, 18% as high risk, 0% very high. This service could continue to improve its capacity for recidivism reduction through:

1. Regarding Quality of Service Delivery:

a. Organizational Response to Drift:

- i. Enhance existing drift policy for this service by clarifying how drift will be identified, such as by periodically reviewing service delivery data at management meetings and analyzing pre/post test results.
- ii. Consider increasing pre/post-tests clinical orientation and measuring changes during the youth's experience with the service rather than for each session.

2. Regarding Amount of Service:

- a. Improve communication with JPO from referring counties to better match research recommendations for the targeted amount of service.
- b. Discuss aftercare options to help with transition after residential treatment:
 - i. Reconsider the "pre-release" option that increases frequency of home passes as youth approach discharge.
 - ii. Initiate a transition plan for each student.

3. Regarding Level of Risk:

- a. Improve communication with JPO from referring counties to better match research recommendations for the Level of Risk.
- b. Increase collaboration between juvenile probation and Outside In to consider:
 - i. Each youth's responsivity factors during treatment.
 - ii. Appropriate length of stay for each youth.

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The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™):

Service Score Results: Reassessment 2

SPEP™ ID and Time: 0087-T03

Agency Name: Outside In
Program Name: Voyagers
Service Name: Competency Development Group
Cohort Total: 57
Timeframe of Selected Cohort: February 1, 2020 - August 31, 2021
Referral County(s): Allegheny (20); Beaver (2); Bucks (3); Clarion (1); Cumberland (2); Dauphin (3); Delaware (1); Erie (3); Lancaster (1); Lebanon (3); Lehigh (2); Lycoming (2); Montgomery (3); Washington (4); Westmoreland (6); York (1)
Date(s) of Interview(s): Service Classification, 1/29/2021; Quality Interview, 7/28/2021
Lead County: Erie
Probation Representative(s): Janelle Gates, Placement Officer, Fayette County Juvenile Probation
EPIS Representative: Shannon O'Lone, SPEP™ Implementation Specialist

Description of Service:

Outside In is a nonprofit corporation based in Westmoreland County that provides services for youth and families. It is licensed by the Department of Health – Division of Drug & Alcohol Program (DDAP), the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS), and the Pennsylvania Department of Education – Division of Private Academic Schools (PDE). Outside In is also accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) and by the American Camp Association (ACA). The agency is a member of the Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth & Family Services, the Pennsylvania Community Provider's Association, Pennsylvania Academic, Career and Technical Training (PACCT) and Occupational Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR). Outside In offers a continuum of care that includes both residential and community-based services with the goal to empower persons served to live "to the fullest"! Residential services at the Outside In campus include two programs - Pathway to Recovery & Voyagers.

The Voyagers Program is an activity-intensive 36-bed, male only, residential program focusing primarily on pro-social adolescent development and skill building. The Voyagers Program utilizes a cognitive behavioral approach which challenges each student's thinking and behavior patterns in three specific adolescent developmental areas: pro-social skills, moral reasoning and education. The Voyagers Program incorporates a group approach with experience-based learning. The group approach emphasizes pro-social skill building, and the experience-based learning provides real-world engagement. Specific activities foster interaction and interdependence between group members while simultaneously developing problem solving ability and personal responsibility. The dynamics of trust, teamwork, stewardship, integrity, communication, service and respect are emphasized. The average length of stay is 4 to 6 months, but can vary from a month to a year or longer. Each student has the opportunity to participate in community service and venturing activities. The Voyagers Program consists of a highly structured milieu that is developmentally appropriate and intrinsically motivating. The milieu challenges each student to evaluate his past behaviors & decisions and to begin imagining new ways of being.

Students are instructed in the areas of Aggression Replacement Training®, Competency Development, Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), and Independent Life Skills. Each student has the opportunity to participate in community service and venturing activities. Each student's progress is measured on a weekly basis along three performance tracks: behavior, academics, and completion of service plan goals.

To meet the ever-changing needs of youth, The Voyagers Program could be a potential stepdown for students that offers outpatient D&A services and/or a Wilderness Intensive Leadership Development cycle. Additionally, Voyagers offers a Transitional Living Program for students who have specific independent living needs, as well as a "Sanction" Program, which can be used at county juvenile probation department's discretion.

- The Transitional Living Program is designed for dependent/delinquent youth lacking permanency or whose family/home environment needs stabilized prior to discharge. Treatment services focus on transitional skills development.
- The Sanction Program is used as a short-term high impact, or pre-emptive measure (e.g., a step-up versus a step-down service). Youth may be referred for one weekend, several weekends, or a select number of consecutive days (typically between 7 & 14). Group counseling services, educational support, and experiential activities are the focal points of the students' experience within the Sanctions Program.

Students are evaluated weekly through ten behavioral categories: Class Session Participation, Cooperation, Responsibility, Attitude toward Authority, Socialization with Peers, Positive Mental Attitude, Initiative, Courtesy and Manners, Personal Moral Integrity, and Behavioral Contract. These categories form the backbone of Outside In's interventions providing the students with immediate feedback on appropriate decision making, behavior expectations, and education.

As part of the focus on pro-social adolescent development and skill building, all youth in the Voyagers Program receive weekly group counseling sessions, known as the Competency Development Group. These groups are held three times per week, for one hour. Topics can be taken from the behavioral categories outlined above; group topics may also be driven by students' needs. (Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy and Advancing Competency Development: A White Paper for Pennsylvania influenced this locally-developed curriculum.)

The four characteristics of a service found to be the most strongly related to reducing recidivism:

1. **SPEP™ Service Type:** Group Counseling

Based on the meta-analysis, is there a qualifying supplemental service? No

If so, what is the Service Type? There is no qualifying supplemental service

Was the supplemental service provided? No **Total Points Possible for this Service Type:** 30

Total Points Received: 30 **Total Points Possible:** 35

2. **Quality of Service:** Research has shown that programs that deliver service with high quality are more likely to have a positive impact on recidivism reduction. Monitoring of quality is defined by existence of written protocol, staff training, staff supervision, and how drift from service delivery is addressed.

Total Points Received: 20 **Total Points Possible:** 20

3. Amount of Service: Score was derived by calculating the total number of weeks and hours received by each youth in the service. The amount of service is measured by the target amounts of service for the SPEP™ service categorization. Each SPEP™ service type has varying amounts of duration and contact hours. Youth should receive the targeted amounts to have the greatest impact on recidivism reduction.

Points received for Duration or Number of Weeks: 2
Points received for Contact Hours or Number of Hours: 4

Total Points Received: 6 Total Points Possible: 20

4. Youth Risk Level: The risk level score is compiled by calculating the total % of youth that score above low risk, and the total % of youth who score above moderate risk to reoffend based on the results of the YLS.

49 youth in the cohort are Moderate, High, Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of youth 10 points
20 in the cohort are High or Very High YLS Risk Level for a total of 13 points

Total Points Received: 23 Total Points Possible: 25

Basic SPEP™ Score: 79 total points received out of 100 points. Compares service to any other type of SPEP™ therapeutic service. (e.g. individual counseling compared to cognitive behavioral therapy, social skills training, mentoring, etc.)

Note: Services with scores greater than or equal to 50 show the service is having a positive impact on recidivism reduction.

Program Optimization Percentage: 83% This percentage compares the service to the same service types found in the research. (e.g. individual counseling compared to all other individual counseling services included in the research.)

The SPEP™ and Performance Improvement

The intended use of the SPEP™ is to optimize the effectiveness of reducing recidivism among juvenile offenders. Recommendations for performance improvement are included in the service Feedback Report, and these recommendations are the focus of the Performance Improvement Plan, a shared responsibility of the service provider and the juvenile probation department.

There are no recommendations for service improvement at this time, however, the impact of the COVID pandemic on the service can be seen in Dosage and Duration where this service has previously scored higher. It is advised that Outside In continues to offer this service according to the protocols they have established to maintain gains made in previous Performance Improvement cycles.